

# **Basic beliefs and practices of Islam**

- 1. The Concept of God**
- 2. Islam and Muslims**
- 3. Prophets and Books**
- 4. Quran**

# The concept of God

- ❑ The most important concept in any religion
- ❑ The God of Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac
- ❑ Exactly the concept in the First Commandment

# The concept of God in Islam

## World English Bible translation: Book of Deuteronomy

4:15 Take therefore good heed to yourselves; for you saw **no manner of form** on the day that Yahweh spoke to you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire. 4:16 Lest you corrupt yourselves, and make yourself an engraved image **in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female**, 4:17 the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the sky, 4:18 the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth; 4:19 and lest you lift up your eyes to the sky, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, even all the army of the sky, you are drawn away and worship them, and serve them, which Yahweh your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole sky.

# The concept of God in Islam

## World English Bible translation: Book of Deuteronomy

5:6 "I am Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

5:7 "You shall have no other gods before me.

5:8 "You shall not make an engraved image for yourself, *nor any likeness of anything* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5:9 you shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them; for I, Yahweh, your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and on the fourth generation of those who hate me; 5:10 and showing loving kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

# The concept of God in Islam

World English Bible translation: Matthew 6:9-10

6:9 Pray like this: 'Our **Father in heaven**, may **your** name be kept holy. 6:10 Let **your** Kingdom come. Let **your** will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.

Christians could relate to the One God, the God of Abraham, as the "Father in Heaven" to whom Jesus prayed in the Lord's Prayer, the One whose alone is the Kingdom, and whose will alone would be done on earth as it is in heaven, not shared with any other person or thing.

# Allah - The One God

## Similarity between Semitic Names of God

<i>Name</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Prophet</i>
El / Elaha / Elohim	Hebrew	Moses
Alaha	Aramaic	Jesus
Allah	Arabic	Muhammad

# Allah - The One God

## **The Most Beautiful of Names and Attributes**

Sura 2 Baqara of the Quran, verse 255

255. Allah! there is no Allah but He, the Living, the Self-subsisting Eternal. No slumber can seize him nor sleep. His are all things in the heavens and on earth. Who is there can intercede in His presence except as He permits? He knows what (appears to his creatures as) before or after or behind them. Nor shall they compass aught of his knowledge except as He wills. His throne doth extend over the heavens and the earth and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. For He is the Most High the Supreme (in glory).

# Allah - The One God

## The Most Beautiful of Names and Attributes

- The One, Living, Eternal
- Most High, Supreme, The Holy
- Light of the Heavens and Earth
- First, Last, All-Powerful, Almighty
- Creator, Maker, Sustainer, Fashioner, Evolver
- Beneficent, Gracious
- Merciful, Forgiving
- Loving, Peace
- Guardian, Protector, Helper, Knower, Hearer
- Dominant, Accounter, Just, Judge
- Irresistible, Punisher

# The concept of God in Islam

The important concepts about God are:

1. God does not have form, which implies that God does not have human form, and God does not take human form.
2. Do not make human or animal shapes to worship, nor worship God's creations like the sun or moon
3. There is only One God, do not worship idols, do not worship anything but God
4. God is not a person, or multiple persons
5. God is One, is All-Powerful, has no partners, do not associate anyone with Him in His Power and Glory
6. Love and obey God

# Allah - The One God

## Relationship with God

- Creator
- Direct
- Guidance
- Submission
- Love
- Fear
- Trust & dependence
- Hereafter

# Islam and Muslims

- Pronunciation = soft “s”, not hard “z’
- **Isslaam, Musslim** not **Izlam Muzlim Mozlem**

- islam = submission (to God)**
- muslim = one who is in submission (to God)**
- Islam = religion of submission to God**
  - submission to God’s will and commands
  - the way or the sunnah of Prophet Muhammad
- Muslim**
  - submits to God
  - follows the way or the sunnah of Prophet Muhammad
  - 7 essential beliefs and 5/6 essential practices
- islam was the message of all true prophets**
  - Abraham - the model of submission
  - Moses - commandments
  - Jesus - Lord’s Prayer

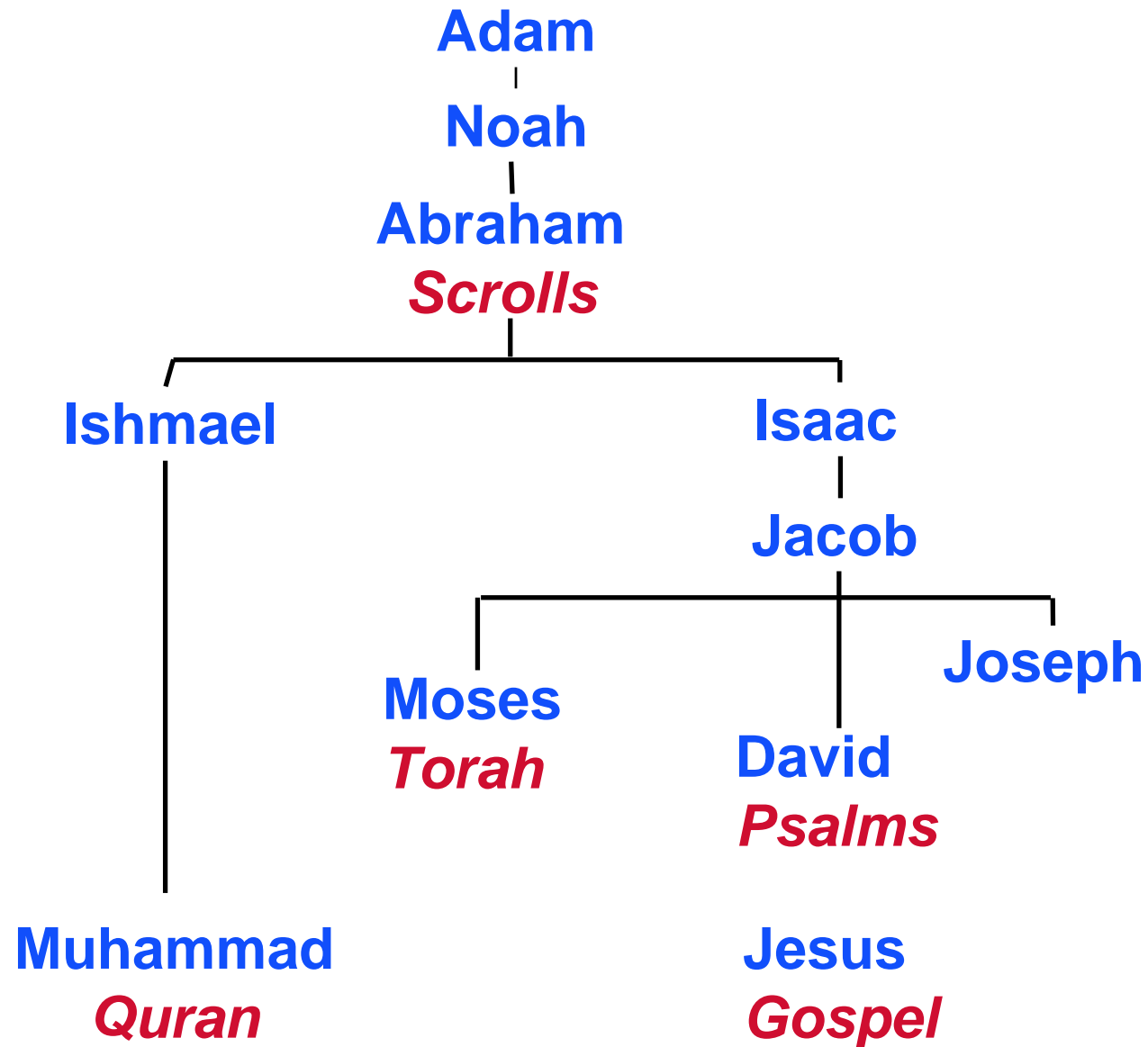
## □ **Beliefs**

1. There is no god except Allah, Who is One, without partners
2. Muhammad is the servant and messenger of Allah
3. The Prophets - through whom God send guidance
4. The Books – Scriptures with the guidance from God
5. The Angels – who carry out God’s commands
6. The Hereafter – the eternal life, Paradise or Hell
7. Divine Decree – some things decreed, birth, death

## □ **Practices – five/six pillars**

1. Declaration of faith - shahada
2. Worship – salat – five daily worships
3. Charity - zakat - 2.5 % of wealth (not income)
4. Fasting - saum – daybreak to sunset in month of Ramadan
5. Pilgrimage – hajj – to Mecca – once, if can afford
6. Striving – jihad – for the sake and cause of Allah, includes military, neither pacifist nor aggressive

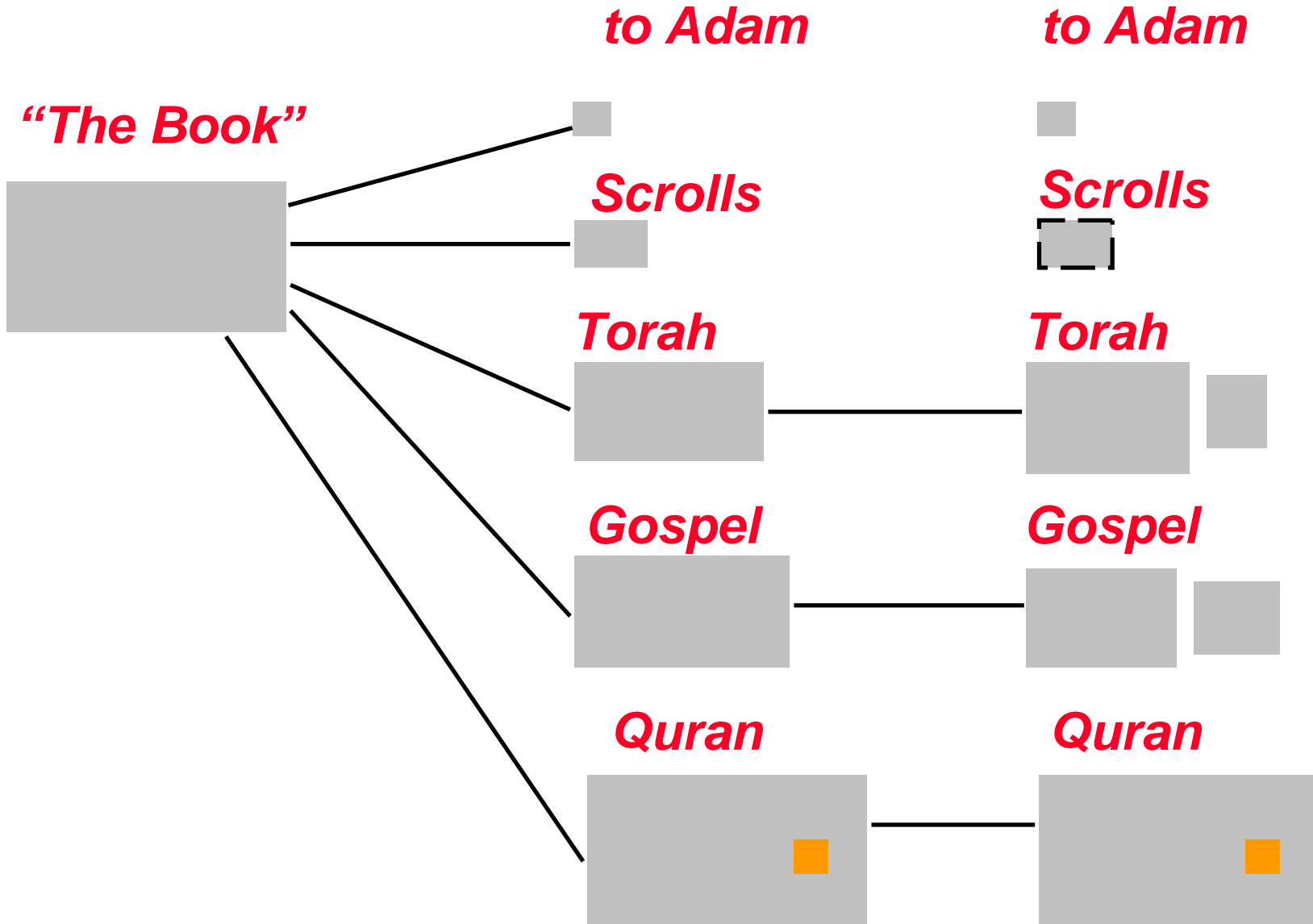
# The Prophets and Books



# The Books

# As Revealed

# Today



# Quran / Koran

## The Final Revelation

- God's Word and His Message to all mankind
- Completes, verifies and guards the original Torah and Gospel
- Different style, not chronological, like Sermon on the Mount

## The Guarantee

- Protected by complete memorization since revelation
- God guarantees its purity and accuracy till Judgment Day

## The Unique Miracle

- Moses - staff, parting of sea
- Jesus - healing lepers, blind, raising the dead
- Quran - miracle of wisdom, message, language, form
- A miracle that may be experienced even now by anyone

## The Challenge of the Miracle - Sura Baqara 2

23. And if you are in doubt as to what We have revealed from time to time to Our servant then produce a Surah like thereunto; and call your witnesses or helpers (if there are any) besides God if your (doubts) are true.

# **The first Sura (chapter) of the Quran: Al-Fatiha (The Opening)**

- ❑ The Sura Fatiha is God's gift and guidance to mankind on how to worship Him, how to approach Him, and what to ask of Him.**
- ❑ The first four verses glorify and magnify God.**
- ❑ The fifth verse directly addresses God, reaffirming our worship of Him alone, and our dependence on Him alone.**
- ❑ The last three verses are a prayer for the most precious of things, guidance from God to the straight path, and the rest of the Quran is a response to this prayer for guidance.**
- ❑ This has some similarities to the Lord's Prayer as taught by Jesus.**

## Sura 1. Al-Fatiha

1. In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.
2. Praise be to Allah the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds.
3. Most Gracious, Most Merciful.
4. Master of the Day of Judgment.
5. Thee do we worship and Thine aid we seek.
6. Show us the straight way.
7. The way of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy Grace Those whose (portion) is not wrath and who go not astray.

